

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A presensitized plate which comprises  
an aluminum support for a lithographic printing plate obtainable by performing a treatment with an aqueous solution containing one or more divalent or multivalent cations except alkaline earth metal at a concentration ranging from 0.0001 mol/L to less than 0.020 mol/L; and  
an image recording layer formed thereon containing an infrared absorbent,  
wherein the treatment of the aluminum support with the aqueous solution is performed on an aluminum plate which has been subjected to a graining treatment, an anodizing treatment and a hydrophilic treatment in this order.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended): A method of preparing a presensitized plate comprising an aluminum support for a lithographic printing plate and an image recording layer comprising the steps of:

performing a treatment on an aluminum support with an aqueous solution containing one or more divalent or multivalent cations except alkaline earth metal at a concentration ranging from 0.0001 mol/L to less than 0.020 mol/L; and

forming an image recording layer containing an infrared absorbent on the treated aluminum support,

wherein the treatment with the aqueous solution is performed on an aluminum plate which has been subjected to a graining treatment, an anodizing treatment and a hydrophilic treatment in this order.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): The presensitized plate according to claim 1, wherein an intermediate layer containing a high-molecular compound having a constituent with an acid group and a constituent with onium group is formed between the support for a lithographic printing plate and the image recording layer.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim 1 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (original): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim 9 to light; and  
developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented): The presensitized plate according to claim 1 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

22. (previously presented): The presensitized plate according to claim 1 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 3 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

26. (previously presented): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 3 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): The method of preparing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 13 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4<sup>th</sup> group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5<sup>th</sup> group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6<sup>th</sup> group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7<sup>th</sup> group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8<sup>th</sup> group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9<sup>th</sup> group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10<sup>th</sup> group; Cu, Ag and Au in

the 11<sup>th</sup> group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12<sup>th</sup> group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13<sup>th</sup> group; Sn and Pb in the 14<sup>th</sup> group; Sb and Bi in the 15<sup>th</sup> group; and Te and Po in the 16<sup>th</sup> group in the periodic table.

30. (previously presented): The method of preparing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 13 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.